

*** NEWS RELEASE ***
**GREENFIELD BOY, AGE 8, TAKEN BY
MOTHER TO MEXICO IN 2015, IS
REUNITED WITH HIS FATHER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today the District Attorney's Child Abduction Unit has facilitated the return of an 8-year-old Greenfield boy from Mexico and reunited the boy with his father.

The boy was born in Salinas in 2008 and lived his entire life in Greenfield. On June 15, 2015, the boy's father received a phone call from the boy's mother, who told him she was moving to Mexico with the boy and her new boyfriend. She took her son to Mexico despite his father's objections. The father then worked with District Attorney Investigator Jorge Gutierrez to file a petition pursuant to the Hague Convention, seeking the help of the Mexican government for the return of his son, who he argued had been unlawfully taken to Mexico.

The *Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* is a multilateral treaty, which seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of abduction and retention across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return. This case justified a request for assistance under the Hague Convention from the Central Authority of the Republic of Mexico.

On August 22, 2016, after the boy was located in Huayacocotla, in the State of Veracruz, Mexican authorities held a hearing to determine whether the boy should be returned to California. Authorities determined the boy, whose mother had left him with her relatives while she returned to California, should be returned to his father. The Judge immediately placed the boy in protective custody until he could be picked up and taken to California.

The boy's paternal great grandmother was able to travel to Veracruz to take custody of him and she transported him to Tijuana, where DA Investigator Gutierrez and Department of Justice Foreign Prosecution Agent Guillermo Auyon escorted the boy through the Otay Mesa border crossing, where he was reunited with his father. Investigator Gutierrez then transported the family back to Monterey County.